

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ink jet recording head maintenance apparatus of this invention is provided with a plurality of wiping members having different wiping forces to remove residual ink or foreign substances from the nozzle face of the nozzle plate of the recording head. When performing wiping operation, the optimum wiping member is selected from among the plurality of wiping members in accordance with a change in the kind of adhering substances and adhering condition. It is therefore possible to select the optimum wiping member and achieve a good wiping effect without increasing the number of counts of wiping operation.